

IMPACT OF FOOD STAMPS QC NONCOOPERATION ON THE CALWORKS CASE

NUMBER: QC06-02

DATE: October 27, 2006

SITUATION:

During the course of the QC review, the Public Assistance Food Stamps (PAFS) household refuses to cooperate with the reviewer. As a result, the County Welfare Department (CWD) imposes a Food Stamps sanction.

QUESTIONS:

(1) Can the Food Stamps household be sanctioned from both the TANF/CalWORKs and Food Stamps programs when it refuses to cooperate with a Food Stamps Quality Control review? and

(2) Can a sanction be imposed on the TANF/CalWORKs Assistance Unit when it refuses to cooperate in providing work participation information for TANF/CalWORKs data collection?

RESPONSE:

(1) A QC sanction should not be imposed on the companion TANF case when the client refuses to cooperate in a PA Food Stamp accuracy review. California does not currently QC Review TANF benefits for payment accuracy. In the past, when the client did not cooperate in a QC accuracy Review of a TANF payment, only the TANF benefit in that case was subject to possible sanction. Likewise, if a Food Stamp benefit was selected for review in a PA case, but the TANF payment was not selected for review, only the Food Stamp issuance was subject to possible QC sanction. Failure to cooperate in completion of a Food Stamp accuracy review only demonstrates non-cooperation with Food Stamp rules. Until the State institutes another QC payment accuracy review for TANF, a QC sanction should not be imposed on TANF cases.

(2) No. A QC sanction should not be imposed on TANF cases when the client does not cooperate in providing work participation information for a data case. Although the QC worker is instructed to base work participation information on actual participation for the month, a data review does not require a face-to-face interview and there is no requirement that the client cooperate with the data review.

CDSS Policy Response:

A QC sanction shall not be imposed on the companion TANF case when the client refuses to cooperate in a PA Food Stamp accuracy review. If a food stamp benefit was selected for review in a PA case, but the TANF payment was not selected for review, only the FS issuance is subject to possible QC sanction. (MPP Section 63-503.7).

Failure to cooperate in completion of a Food Stamp accuracy review only demonstrates non-cooperation with Food Stamp rules and the household who fails to cooperate with Federal QC reviewers shall result in termination of the household's eligibility. If a household is terminated for refusal to cooperate with a QC reviewer, in accordance with 275.3(c)(5) or 275.12(g)(1)(ii), the household may reapply, but shall not be determined eligible until it cooperates with the QC reviewer.